

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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January 4 2001

8

Prior to the examination of this application, please amend it as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 3, line 1, please delete "or ?"

Claim 4, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 3" and substitute --claim 1-- therefor

Claim 5, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 4" and substitute --claim 1-- therefor.

Claim 6, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 5" and substitute --claim 1-- therefor

Claim 7, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 6" and substitute --claim 1-- therefor.

Claim 8, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 7" and substitute --claim 1-- therefor.

Claim 9, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 8" and substitute --claim 1-- therefor.

Claim 10, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 9" and substitute --claim 1-- therefor.

Claim 13, line 1, please delete "or 12".

Claim 14, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 11 to 13" and substitute --claim 11-- therefor.

Claim 15, line 1, please delete "claim 13 or 14" and substitute --in claim 13-- therefor.

Claim 16, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 13 to 15" and substitute --claim 13-- therefor.

Claim 17, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 13 to 16" and substitute --claim 13-- therefor.

Claim 18, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 11 to 17" and substitute --claim 11-- therefor.

Claim 19, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 11 to 18" and substitute --claim 11-- therefor.

Claim 20, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 11 to 19" and substitute --claim 11-- therefor.

Claim 21, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 11 to 20" and substitute --claim 11-- therefor.

Claim 22, lines 1 and 2, please delete "any one of claims 11 to 21" and substitute --
claim 11-- therefor.

REMARKS

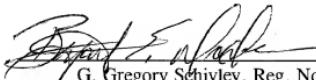
The purpose of this preliminary amendment is to clarify the translation and remove
multiple dependent claims from the application to reduce filing costs.

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 4, 2001

By:



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